south, to the eastern end of the Chalapalli Mundakam on the west, to the Kakkanad-Alumudu corner on the north and to the second milestone on the Kuttiteruvu on the east.

The public roads, bazaars and bazaar roads within municipal limits were not properly maintained. If they were transferred to the control of the Municipal Council, together with the annual allotments for their maintenance, they would be maintained and managed in a better fashion.

The Kayankulam hospital was located in a remote corner of the town and badly housed. It would be more useful to the public, if removed to a suitable building in the centre of the town.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Vava Kunju Lebba, the matter of a First Class Magistrate's Court first came before this Assembly last year. On another occasion too, as you pointed out, the question has been placed before me. I already had it from the member representing the Trading Classes, who spoke before you, and I have it again from you. On this point, of course, the Government have to be guided by their district officers and other officers who have intimate knowledge of the local conditions ; and the advice they tender to the Government is that the establishment of a First Class Magistrate's Court at Kayankulam is not necessary, because there are already four First Class Magistrate's Courts in the Division. But you have pleaded so eloquently for it that I shall have the matter re-examined.

147. Needs of the Alleppey town.

MR. P. S. MUHAMMAD (*Member, Municipal Council, Alleppey*) said that the supply of good water was the most vital need of the Alleppey town. The unsatisfactory nature of water supply at Alleppey had been brought to the notice of the Government by all the Sanitary Commissioners who had visited the town ; and the Dewan also had promised the deputation that waited on him to depute a special officer to enquire into the matter. But it was regrettable that nothing further was done. As Alleppey was the chief commercial centre of North Travancore, the question should receive the earnest consideration of the Government and a scheme should be sanctioned at an early date.

Introduction of electric lights in the Alleppey town had been long prayed for by the local inhabitants. Considering the ever-growing commercial and industrial importance of the town, the matter should have been taken up earlier for consideration. The Alleppey Municipal Council was prepared to undertake the responsibility of inaugurating the scheme, but it was not rich enough to meet the entire cost. As a preliminary to the introduction of the scheme, it should be investigated by an expert who would estimate its financial requirements. It was the desire of the Council that the above investigation should be conducted at Government cost. The expert to be employed in connection with the introduction of electric lights in the Trivandrum town might with advantage be asked to conduct the investigation work at Alleppey also. The Government should also help the Council by making a contribution as in Cochin or advancing a loan.

It was imperatively necessary to keep the Commercial canal in good condition in the interests of trade. Very often, the canal was silted up, thereby impeding traffic and causing great inconvenience and loss to the merchants. The cement works in the canal should therefore be completed at an early date.

A bridge across the Commercial canal at Chunkam was another imperative need as it was the business centre of the Alleppey town. Ferry boats could not serve the purpose of the bridge inasmuch as there was incessant traffic to and fro. The work should be taken up at an early date.

Another bridge at Vazhichery *kadavu* was also necessary because thousands of people, mostly women and children, had to cross the Vadai canal at that place. The ferry boats could not adequately satisfy their requirements. Besides the inconveniences attendant on waiting for the ferry boats for crossing, the females were exposed to the vulgar language used by the drunkards frequenting a liquor shop close by.

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The construction of the bridge had been sanctioned long ago and the Chief Engineer had, when he visited the place in company with the Dewan, promised to commence the work early and some materials had been collected. But nothing further was done and some of the materials were missing.

Similarly, a bridge at the western end of the Vadai canal should also be put up at an early date.

Additional go-downs should be erected at the sea beach. The necessity for them had been brought to the notice of the Government who were already convinced of the reasonableness of the request.

The maintenance of the roads in the Alleppey town consumed a large share of the municipal revenues. The expenditure during 1101 amounted to Rs. 9,000, being one-fourth of the annual revenue of the Council. In spite of such heavy expenditure, the roads were not in proper condition. Traffic in the town had considerably increased and the maintenance of the roads was becoming more and more costly. Unless, therefore, the maintenance grant was raised to Rs. 7,383, the amount sanctioned in 1099, the Council would be helpless and unable to continue the maintenance work. The difficulties in the maintenance of the roads were many. The banks of the canals and the parapet walls were under the control of the Public Works Department, while the roads on both the sides were under the control of the Municipal Council. The banks and walls were damaged in many places but the necessary repairs were not promptly carried out. Consequently, the roads were in portions washed away by the rains, thereby causing loss to the Council. An adequate number of outlets for the drainage of rain water from the roads had not been provided by the Public Works Department. The roads were, as a result, under water for days together after heavy rains. The stagnation of water also affected the sanitary condition of the town. That was also another source of annoyance and loss to the Council. In 1099, the roads were damaged in several places. For repairs, the Municipal Council had applied for a contribution of Rs. 5,000 but the application had not been complied with. Unless prompt action was taken, the condition of the roads would deteriorate further. If the Government did not find their way to do the needful, they had better take over the maintenance of the roads themselves.

The attention of the Government had already been drawn to the necessity for connecting Alleppey and Cochin by road. The matter should receive the early and sympethetic consideration of the Government.

A hospital for women and children at Alleppey was a long-felt want and the matter had been brought to the notice of the Government on many previous occasions. Considering the large number of *purdah* ladies at Alleppey and their reluctance to be attended to by male doctors, a women's hospital was indispensable. Till such a hospital was opened, a competent lady surgeon might be appointed in the existing hospital to attend to female patients.

The C. M. S. Leper Asylum was doing good work at Alleppey. But the accommodation in the asylum was limited and a large number of lepers was at large causing annoyance to the citizens and spreading infection in the town. The number of lepers was on the increase and it was high time that another asylum was constructed. An asylum on modern lines should be started soon.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. P. S. Muhammad, as regards water supply, Government will take an early opportunity to have the possibility of it investigated and if you can find funds for the purpose the question of electric lighting also will be examined, though I think it is a luxury. I shall be very happy to place at your disposal the services of an expert in electrical engineering, if the Municipality asks for his services. The question of maintenance of town roads is a very vexed one. I am afraid you must have thrown your memory back earlier than last year when you said that, owing to bad repair and neglect of the canal embankments, roads had collapsed, parapet walls had fallen down and so on. I do not know whether you will be able to find any case of bad repair and neglect of the canal embankments this year. It seems to me that these portions of the road are all right.

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MEMBER : I am sure you have not gone along the Vadai canal road.

DEWAN : As for the early completion of the cement works in the Commercial canal, the matter is receiving attention and an estimate for the end portion comes to Rs. 65,000 to Rs. 70,000. I shall see whether we can do the work gradually year by year and if the Port Officer agrees with the Chief Engineer's proposals, I hope to give you your first instalment next year. The Chief Engineer will note that fact.

Other matters you have taken up here are mostly for the Municipality except the Cochin-Alleppey road and if you had read my address you would have known something about that.

The hospital for women and children is an expensive proposal. But there is no harm in having the matter examined. The Leper Asylum is another matter. I think when we have a large Leper Asylum started near Cochira some of those unfortunate persons from Alleppey can be accommodated there.

148. Needs of the Vaikam Municipality.

MR. K. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Vaikam*) stated that many portions of the Vaikam town especially those surrounding the thickly populated places, were on a low level and consequently water-logged. There were no proper drainage channels. The roads and bye-lanes in the town were also similarly situated. Further, the soil, being sandy, was easily washed away by the rains. In the interests of the sanitation of the town and the health of the inhabitants it was necessary to construct drains on the sides of public roads and side-drains on the sides of village roads and lanes and to open channels for draining away the water collected in water-logged areas.

The Municipal Council was entrusted with the duty of improving the town but the financial resources of the Council were not sufficient for the purpose. Only about a fourth of the Municipal area was being lighted and swept. The roads and lanes, except the Main Central road, were neglected for want of funds. Other Municipal Councils, much richer than the Vaikam Council, were given the privilege of levying and collecting tolls on motor vehicles, bullock-carts, etc. The member pleaded that the Vaikam Council should also be allowed to levy tolls on motor vehicles.

The total length of the chief roads of the town was only five miles. Although the roads were gravelled, their condition was not very satisfactory. The minor roads were sandy during summer and marshy during winter. The level of most roads should be raised and they should be gravelled. Want of proper cart-roads was an obstacle in the improvement of the town. The waterways also were not properly maintained and had become unfit for use. They should be widened, deepened and improved.

The streets and other *porambokes* within the town were under the control of the Municipal Council, which was allowed to collect the dues thereon for temporary occupation. But the trees standing thereon were not handed over to the Council and were being leased on *kutpakapaattam* by the Public Works Department. The Municipal Council should be empowered to lease the usufruct of the trees standing on the *porambokes* mentioned above, in view to increase its financial position.

The Municipal Council had no information about the transfers effected of properties situated within the Municipality. The Council was consequently handicapped in the speedy collection of taxes and other dues in respect of the houses, so transferred. The Sub-Registrars should therefore be instructed to supply a copy each of the *pokkuvaravu* forms in respect of houses or house-sites within the Municipal area in respect of which transfers were effected.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Velayudhan Pillai, in the matter of drainage, you ask the Public Works Department to undertake the construction of masonry drains. I do not know whether you mean that the agency for doing the work of the Municipality is to be the Public Works Department or whether you want the Public Works Department to bear the cost of it also. If the latter, I regret it cannot be done.

Then you refer to tolls. When you asked that your Municipality be permitted to levy tolls on motor vehicles, I naturally jumped to the conclusion that

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